

**WATER RESOURCES BOARD
INTER-OFFICE MEMO**

To: Kathleen Crawley, Acting General Manager
From: Beverly O'Keefe, Supervising Planner
Date: May 31, 2005
Subject: Drought Update: Current Water Conditions

Pursuant to State Guide Plan Element 724: The Rhode Island Drought Management Plan, the Water Resources Board is required to assess water conditions monthly. Staff has assembled climate information from a variety of sources to monitor the potential for drought conditions in Rhode Island.

The **NOAA National Weather Service** reports precipitation through April was above normal (see Attachment A).

The **USGS Water Conditions Statement** reports groundwater conditions throughout southeastern Rhode Island ending April was **above normal** in southeastern Rhode Island (Attachment B). Water levels in the rest of Rhode Island were generally **normal**. The U.S. Geological Survey April 2005 Water Conditions Statements marked two wells with new high ground water levels in Rhode Island (Burrillville 396 and West Greenwich 206). A new low ground water level was identified in the Charlestown 587 well. Surface water flows at the end of April 2005 were generally above normal for Rhode Island. The Scituate Reservoir on May 31, 2005 was measured at 285.63 feet (104.0 % of capacity).

The **NOAA Drought Severity Index and Crop Moisture Index** values for Rhode Island, period ending 30 April 2005, shows a very moist spell (Attachment C).

DISCUSSION

Water conditions for Rhode Island were generally above normal during the month of April.

RECOMMENDATIONS : Information only.

ATTACHMENT A: NOAA NWS RI Precipitation Report April 2005

ATTACHMENT B: USGS Water Conditions Statement – April 2005

ATTACHMENT C: NOAA NCEP Palmer Drought Severity &Crop Moisture Index - 30 April 2005

ATTACHMENT A: NOAA NWS RI Climate Report

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/fcsts/BOSCLIPVD.html>

ATTACHMENT B: USGS March 2005 Water Conditions Statement

http://ma.water.usgs.gov/water_const/water_conditions_200505.htm

http://ma.water.usgs.gov/current_cond/cwrc_gw.htm

ATTACHMENT C: NOAA NCEP Palmer Drought Severity Index

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/palmer.gif